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NOVELTIES FOR THE HOME.

AGES now-a-days are all for novelty, and anything coming under this head is sure to meet with success. I propose, therefore, to offer suggestions for the manufacture of a few fancy articles, such as will be appreciated by those housewives whose pleasure it is to accumulate little elegancies in their rooms. Some of these are trifles suitable for minor gifts or for sale at the bazars, whilst the more important of them would be appropriate and handsome enough for wedding presents. Sofa cushions, for instance, are not the atrocities in form and color that they once were. A square, feather-stuffed cushion of the usual size may be made very tasteful and pretty by covering one side of it with pale sage green plush, and by making the other side more elaborate. The main part of this side must be covered with the same plush as the other, but the upper right hand corner is turned well back over the cushion—so far back that only a space of about three inches is left beyond, and between it and the two sides of the cushion. This triangular piece must be lined with cream colored satin, and so must the part of the cushion that is exposed by the turning back of the corner. A very handsome design of birds, leaves and flowers, in which shades of reddish brown and gold predominate, will assort well with the pale green plush, and must be embroidered on both these cream colored triangles. Nothing is better than a pretty ball fringe with which to finish off the cushion all round the edges.

Various modifications of this cushion cover may be suggested; thus, it would look quite as effective and pretty if the turned-back portions were of tender green satin to match the outside covering, and unornamented, the under part being of cream colored satin and richly embroidered. The green plush and green satin would then have the appearance of a handsome outside cover, slipped over the more delicate embroidered one to preserve the work; in this case the fringe should be carried round the turned back portion of the cushion. Arrasene is very effective and suitable for the embroidery, as the fluffy nature of such needlework assorts well with the texture of the plush.

The style of this cushion may suggest a use for antique pieces of Oriental embroidery, which many people save up, and are uncertain how to turn to good account.

A novelty in small cushions to hang to the back of a reclining chair, is one made in the shape of a half moon or crescent. These would be considered an improvement on the little bolsters that have been so popular of late. The plush cover (everything of this kind is made of this material now-a-days) is embroidered and edged all round with a tassel fringe. The cord with which to suspend it to the back of the chair is fastened to each tip or horn of the crescent.

A very pretty style of chair back or antimacassar can be made of ordinary white imitation Mechlin net, with a spray of flowers worked at the ends in arrasene, without any regard to the pattern of the net itself. The net must be lined with colored satin, thin silk, or sateen, and the edges ornamented with tassels sewn on all round at intervals of about an inch.

Charming chairbacks, too, may be made of spotted muslin or net in a similar style. A muslin should be chosen with rather large circular spots placed at a great distance apart. Round each spot should be worked in a sort of close darning, or crewel stitch in fine flax thread, the florets of a large daisy or marguerite, and a stock added to the flowers in as unconventional a manner as possible. This sort of work would be extremely dainty carried out on pale blue or pale pink muslin; the daisies of course, in this case, should be worked in white thread, but other flowers can be managed in the same way. A colored sateen lining is required also to make this work effective. Sometimes a lining of colored muslin gives a very charming, light effect.

For footstools and large pieces of work, the old fashioned Berlin woolwork canvas may still be used, but not in the usual manner. The designs can now be carried out in a series of French knots worked in very coarse wool, so that the work when finished has a raised and very rich appearance. Sometimes a part of the design only may be worked in this manner, the rest of it being embroidered in the usual way.

A scarf to lay on the top of an ordinary cottage piano, made of brown plush and tussore silk, would give a look of elegance to any room. The scarf is made on the plan of a sideboard cloth, the width of the piano, and long enough to hang down about half a yard at each end. The centre part is entirely of tussore silk embroidered with a design in two threads of filoselle, in which pale blue, gold and brown predominate. Beyond this, at each end, comes a border of brown plush about fourteen or fifteen inches deep, and finally, a hem about three inches wide is added of the embroidered tussore. A ball fringe of brown and gold chenille would be an improvement to the ends of the scarf, while the whole thing must be carefully lined with a soft, thin, brown silk.

I will now describe a stand work basket, which, with a little ingenuity, can be made at home, and forms a pretty trifle in a drawing-room or boudoir. The materials required are four tolerably slender walkingsticks as much alike as possible, and all the same length. The basket part is composed of an ordinary cardboard bonnet box, such as milliners use to pack their goods in; an oblong or square shaped one is the most easy to adapt. It must be covered outside entirely with plush, and lined inside with quilted satin. The knobs or handles of the sticks are to be used as the feet of the stand, so, must be chosen as flat as possible with a view to this. Cut a groove at the end of each stick just below the ferrule. Attach a stick to each corner of the covered box, with a stout needle and very strong thread, allowing each stitch to rest in the groove cut in the stick. Cut a second groove in the sticks, just about where the middle of the box will come, and sew them together, just as the top fastenings were managed. Secure the box and the sticks once more together near the bottom of the box. Finish off with ball fringe round the top and bottom of the work receptacle, and twist ribbons of appropriate colors down the corners, finishing with a stylish bow and long ends. Be rather careful that the bows are not exactly alike at each corner. A little cover of the quilted satin, edged with ball fringe, is an improvement. Stands of this kind look pretty if the legs are composed of three sticks instead of four. The three sticks are crossed below the trimmed box, and tied up with ribbons. The work receptacle can also be made with a round base and deep sides, so that it resembles in shape the ornamental drain pipes that were lately so popular for painting upon. Crimson and amber are the favorite colors to use for the long bows and ends of ribbon that are just now to be seen ornamenting so many knick-knacks.

One of the last freaks of fashion is to convert camp stools and beach chairs into drawing-room workbags. The material most used for these bags, where expense is no object, is brocaded silk or satin, with a lining of plain satin of a suitable shade of color. Less expensive ones are made of cretonne or of printed cambric. To make one, open out the camp stool and remove the ordinary seat, cut a piece of cretonne the size of the seat, and another piece about eighteen or twenty inches deep, and long enough to sew round the square, joining it up the sides. Fasten this to the frame of the seat of the stool with a number of tiny tacks, five inches from the top of the bag. Make a deep hem at the top and run a double drawstring into it, which will require about two yards and a half of narrow satin ribbon. That, with a plain, not a picot edge, is the best to use, as it slips more easily. It is well to line the top of the mouth of the bag with plain colored sateen. The legs and frame of the camp stool must either be painted black, red, stained like dark wood, or gilded, according to taste. If a beach chair is used instead of a camp stool, the back must be filled in with brocade as well as the seat, and a rather flat pocket made in it, the mouth of which is drawn up with an elastic run into a hem.

Ladies who use lamps are fond of a constant change of shades, and a pretty arrangement can be contrived with an ordinary square, thin silk handkerchief. Pale blue is a pretty color to use. Rose color also is pretty, and so is a pale clear yellow. A circle, the size of the top of the globe, is traced in the centre of the handkerchief. Stitch closely round the circle, then cut away the centre, leaving a round hole button-holed all round, and trim lower edge with a frill of fine lace or a very narrow silk fringe. Many variations can be made in the style of trimming, etc. A figured handkerchief may be used if preferred.—(*The Ladies' Gazette of Fashion, London*).